VISIT…

MARVEL
RAZORLINE
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$1.75 U.S
SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF
CLIVE BARKER
HYPERKIND™
MEET THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN THE WORLD
OH, YOU'RE TOO KIND.
DIRECT EDITION
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JOHN DOORE BELIEVES HIMSELF TO BE THE GREATEST HERO THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN... A VALIANT CHAMPION CODE-NAMED PARAGON JOHN.
HIS ENEMIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PAXIS, THOUGH TODAY WE CALL THEM THE HYPERKIND
SO... YOU'VE CHOSEN NEW NAMES FOR YOURSELVES--
--PITY YOU WON'T BE USING THEM ANY LONGER!
NOW, FOUR TEENAGERS WITH IMMENSE POWERS ARE THE CAPTIVES OF THE LONE MAN WHO ENGINEERED THEIR PREDECESSORS' DESTRUCTION!
AMOKK, RAGING BEAST OF INSTINCT...
...ARMATA, ONE-WOMAN COMBAT SQUAD...
...LOGIX, COLD MASTER OF INTELLECT...
UNDER PRESSURE
A TALE OF THE BARKERVERSE
...AND BLISS, TEMPTRESS OF DREAMS!
CREATED BY CLIVE BARKER
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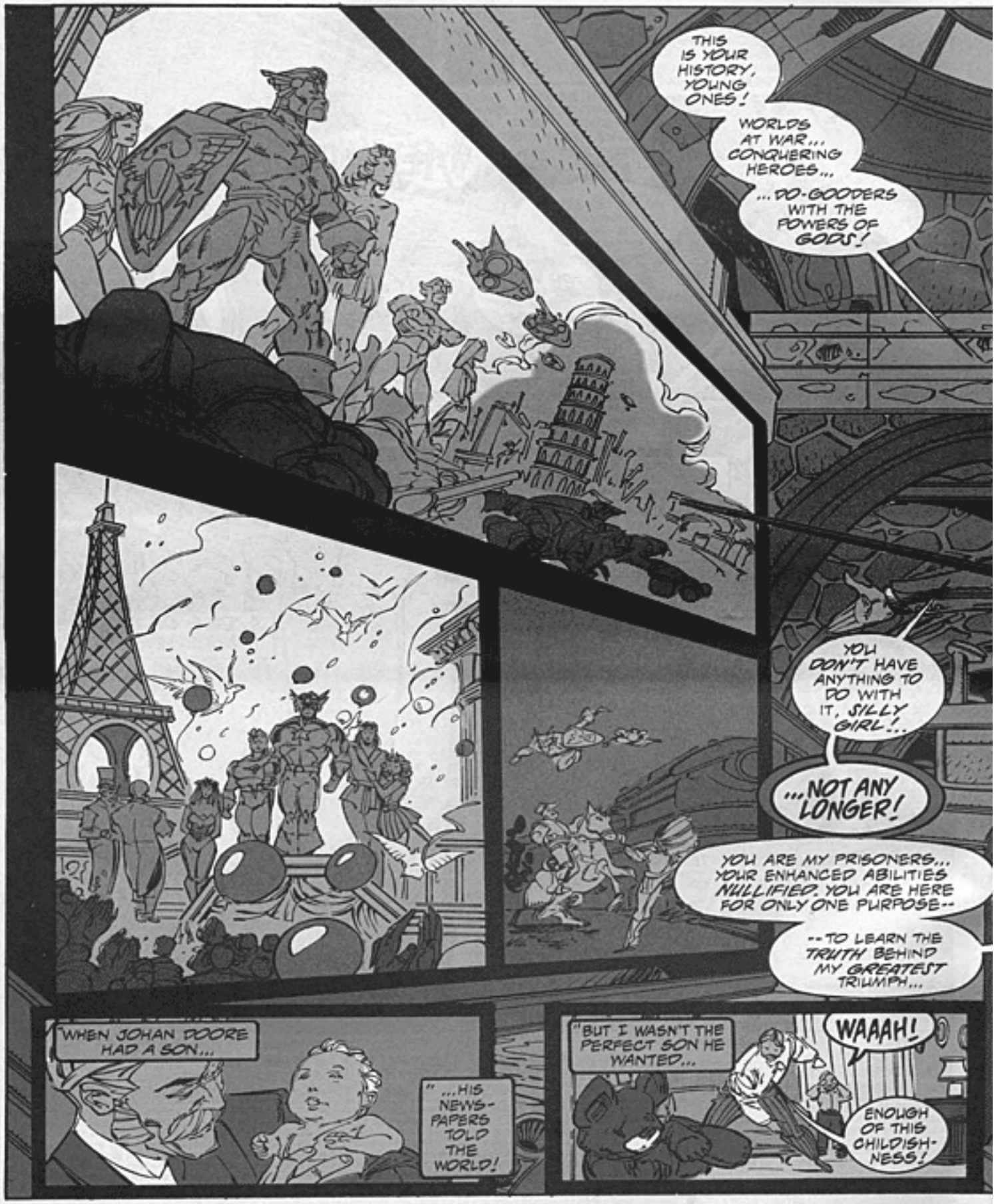
HYPERKIND™ Vol. 1, No. 5, January, 1994. Published monthly by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **Application to mail at second class rates is pending in New York, NY and at additional mailing offices.** Published monthly. All HYPERKIND material copyright © 1993 Clive Barker. All rights reserved. Price $1.75 per copy in the U.S. and $2.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $21.00 U.S.; $33.00 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. HYPERKIND, THE NEXT PAXIS (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of CLIVE BARKER. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO HYPERKIND, THE NEXT PAXIS, c/o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada.


THIS IS YOUR HISTORY, YOUNG ONES!
WORLDS AT WAR... CONQUERING HEROES...
...DO-GOODERS WITH THE POWERS OF GODS!
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT, SILLY GIRL!..
...NOT ANY LONGER!
YOU ARE MY PRISONERS... YOUR ENHANCED ABILITIES NULLIFIED. YOU ARE HERE FOR ONLY ONE PURPOSE--
--TO LEARN THE TRUTH BEHIND MY GREATEST TRIUMPH...
WHEN JOHAN DOORE HAD A SON...
"...HIS NEWSPAPERS TOLD THE WORLD!
"BUT I WASN'T THE PERFECT SON HE WANTED...
WAAAH!
ENOUGH OF THIS CHILDISHNESS!

THIS IS THE HISTORY OF THE PAXIS--
--OBLITERATED FOR ALL TIME!
NOT IF WE HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT!
...AND TO TAKE THAT SECRET TO YOUR GRAVES!
...AND SO I BECAME THAT PARAGON...
"...THE HEIGHT OF INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL PROWESS...
"...READY TO JOIN MY HEROES...
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, SIR!
"...THE GREATEST HYPERKIND IN THE WORLD... THE PAXIS!"

"WHEN THE LEADER OF THE PAXIS TOOK ME TO THEIR GRAND HALL, I THOUGHT ESCHBACHER BELIEVED IN ME...
OF COURSE, SIR!
THIS WHELP DOES NOT SEEK THE ENLIGHTENED PATH! HE IS UNFIT FOR THE POWERS OF THE QUO!
"IT WAS THEN I LEARNED THE HORRIBLE TRUTH-- ESCHBACHER WAS NO HERO! AND THE ALIEN SAMURAI WHO HAD GIVEN THEM THEIR POWERS HAD PLANS OF HIS OWN... TO USE THE PAXIS TO ENSLAVE MANKIND!"
NO! YOU'RE WRONG! ESCH-BACHER GAVE US THESE POWERS! HE WAS A TRUE HERO--TO THE END!
THERMAKK-- THAT LIZARD'S THE REAL MENACE!
BELIEVE WHAT YOU WILL-- BUT MY COURSE, IN THOSE TROUBLED TIMES, WAS CLEAR...
"...ANOTHER WAR WAS STARTING, AND THE WORLD NEEDED A MAN WITH MY STRENGTHS!
"I SAW HORRORS I COULD NOT BELIEVE...
"...WITNESSED THE ATROCITIES MAN COULD UNLEASH UPON MAN...
"...ONLY TO FIND THAT THE PAXIS HAD TAKEN ON A SIDEKICK-- HAD TURNED ME DOWN FOR A SILLY KID NAMED SCOOTER!
RIP
GRRR!
HERE COMES SCOOTER!
SO I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR THEM!
"IT WAS THEN THAT I VOWED TO AID MY FELLOW MAN-- AND DESTROY THE PAXIS!"

"IN MY ZEAL, I ATTACKED WITH ONLY MY PRIMITIVE WEAPONS, MY STRENGTH, AND MY VALOR.
JOHNNY! CALM DOWN! IT'LL BE OKAY!
THERMAKK WAS REALLY RIGHT ABOUT THIS NUT-CASE!
THAT ALIEN'S A MONSTER! HE'LL DESTROY US! DON'T YOU SEE?
"DREAMDANCE WAS THE FIRST TO FALL-- AND I MIGHT HAVE CONQUERED ALL OF THEM...
"...HAD NOT THERMAKK SHOWN HIS TRUE COLORS--MUTATING INTO A HIDEOUS MONSTER FOR ALL TO SEE!
YOU TRIED TO TAKE ON THERMAKK SOLO? WE BARELY FOUGHT THERMAKK WITH OUR POWERS! YOU REALLY ARE CRAZY, DUDE!
NOT CRAZY! =AHEM= I WAS THINKING MORE CLEARLY THAN I EVER HAD. SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE TO STOP THEM--AND I HAD THE WILL TO DO IT!

THANK YOU, DR. TRANSOM... PERHAPS YOU'LL HAVE MORE LUCK WITH MY SON THAN I...
"UNFORTUNATELY, MY FATHER VIEWED MY HEROISM IN A DARKER LIGHT AND HAD ME COMMITTED TO THE MONROE HOME.
NO! FATHER! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE ME HERE!
WE'LL USE EVERY MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL, MR. DOORE...
I KNOW YOUR SON'S BREAKDOWN HAS BEEN TRAUMATIC FOR YOU.
"IT WAS MORE TRAUMATIC FOR ME.
JUST A LITTLE MORE...
GAAA!
"DR. TRANSOM'S TREATMENTS WENT FAR BEYOND THE NORM...
"...BUT I ENDURED!
Z-MAN
MONROE
"WHEN I WAS RELEASED, FIVE YEARS LATER, I FELT THAT TRANSOM AND I WERE OLD FRIENDS...
"...WHO SHARED INTERESTS IN COMMON.
I'M HOME, FATHER-- ARE YOU PLEASED TO SEE ME?
ZZZZAP
KDOR
MY FATHER DIED BY THE RADIO, JUST AS HE LIVED BY IT.
NOW I PLAN TO CONTINUE ON THE AIRWAVES--ONLY THIS TIME WITH TELEVISION!
PRESS
"AND SO I RETURNED TO POWER..."

...THOUGH NO ONE BUT I ENVISIONED JUST HOW POWERFUL I WOULD BECOME!
"I WAS... PERTURBED... THAT THE IRREPRESSIBLE SCOOTER...
"...NOW SOMEHOW ENDOWED WITH ATOMIC POWER! BUT THAT FACT OPENED LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES BEFORE ME!
"RENEWING MY FRIENDSHIP WITH DR. TRANSOM, I BEGAN TO EXPLORE THE EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS AND RADIATION--
"...HAD BECOME THE NEW HERO ON THE SCENE. Z-MAN...
"--ON HUMAN SUBJECTS!
"TRANSOM CALLED THE RESULTING FREAKS ZANIACS...
KAKRESH
"...BUT-- WITH ONE STRANGE EXCEPTION-- MY EXPERIMENTS WERE A FAILURE...
"...AND TRANSOM, OF COURSE, PROMISED TO KILL THE UNREWARDING SUBJECTS.
"UNDAUNTED, I TOOK MY NEXT CUE FROM THE RIDICULOUS REVISIONIST HISTORY OF WW II THEN BEING PUBLISHED..
"...AND RESOLVED TO WIPE THE VERY MEMORY OF PAXIS...
"...FROM THE FACE OF THE PLANET..."

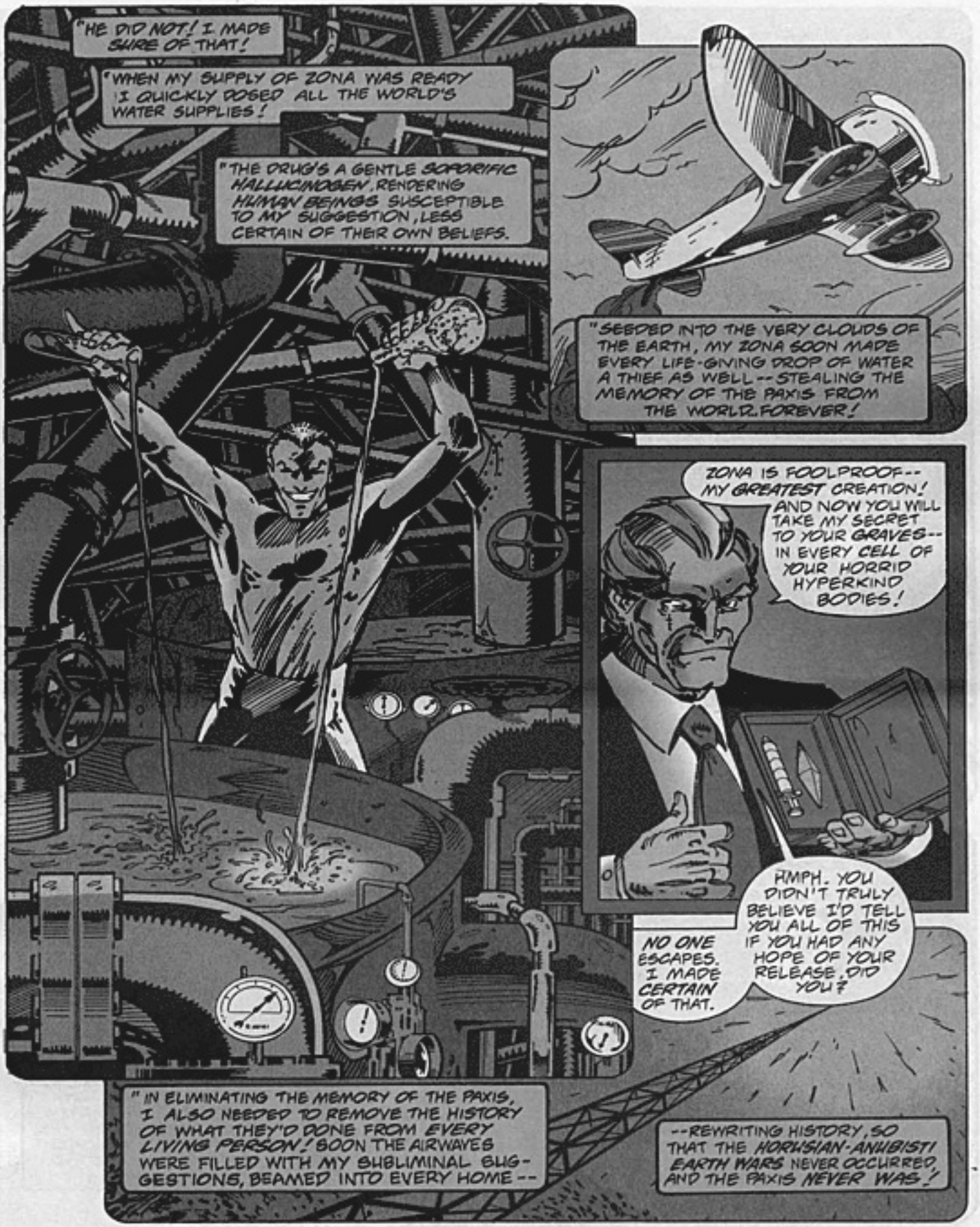
...USING THIS--MY MIRACLE BRAINWASHING SOLUTION...
...MY ZONA!
NOW WE'RE GETTING TO THE TRULY INTERESTING PART!
LOGIX... WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?
DOORE, ARE YOU SAYING THAT A STUPID DRUG ERASED A WHOLE HISTORY?
"NO SIMPLE DRUG IS THIS! IT'S THE ULTIMATE SUGGESTIVE HALLUCINOGEN. AND IT WORKED WONDERS ON MY TEST SUBJECTS, TIME AFTER TIME!
"UNDER MY DIRECTION, THOSE INGESTING ZONA WOULD BE SHOWN AN IMAGE OF CLARION WITH THE PRESIDENT...
"...WHICH WOULD THEN BE SCRAMBLED SUBLIMINALLY WITH AN ENDLESSLY REPEATED REVISED HISTORY...
"...ONE IN WHICH THE PAXIS WAS A CHILD'S TALE, A MYTH...
...THE PAXIS NEVER WAS NO HEROES NOT
"...ACCOMPANIED BY A NEW IMAGE WITHOUT CLARION.
"THE RESULTS WERE ALWAYS THE SAME...
"...MY UNWITTING SUBJECT WOULD SWEAR ON HIS SOUL THAT CLARION AND THE PAXIS NEVER EXISTED!"

" OF COURSE, ELIMINATING CLARION HIMSELF WOULD PROVE MORE DIFFICULT...
"... BUT NOT MUCH MORE!
" CLARION'S WAS THE POWER OF GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS, AND I SOUGHT HIM OUT WITHIN THE QUO TEMPLE--THE PYRAMID THEY CALLED THE PAXIS GRAND HALL!"
IN THE SHADOWS... JOHN DOORE...
...YOU ARE WELL, I PRAY?
IT WAS HARD--THE ASYLUM, THE THINGS I WENT THROUGH...
I AM SORRY, BUT SOMETIMES WE HURT WHEN WE GROW...
DON'T BE SORRY!
I HAVE SEEN THE WAY, AND MOVED FAR BEYOND MY FORMER LIMITATIONS!
I ALMOST KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL--
--BEING ABLE TO EXPAND YOUR SENSES BEYOND THE LIMITATIONS WE MERE MORTALS SHARE...
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE...
OF COURSE! THE COMPLEXITY OVERWHELMS!
BUT TO EXPAND ONE'S VERY CONSCIOUSNESS AS YOU CAN, PAST ALL BOUNDARIES?
AH, DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF IT!
YES... BUT THE QUO WARNED...
AS ADAM WAS WARNED NOT TO EAT OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE? SHOULD YOU BEWARE YOUR POWER TO BECOME ONE WITH GOD?
SO MUCH... CAN I CONTAIN IT?
DON'T CONTAIN IT! BE ONE WITH IT! LET IT GO!
HAHAHA
"--ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF CLARION--
" --WHOSE GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS HAS MADE HIM ONE WITH THE WORLD."
"AND SO I WAS LEFT ALONE WITH BUT A WISP OF SMOKE--
DIABOLICAL!
AND BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE. THE WORLD NEVER HEARD FROM CLARION AGAIN...

ZONA
...NOR WILL THEY EVER HEAR FROM ANY OF YOU!!
THIS DEVICE THAT CONTAINS YOU... MY EMERGENCY GEAR... WILL MAKE CERTAIN OF THAT.
"BUT I DIGRESS. THE TEMPEST, I KNEW, WOULD REQUIRE A MORE PHYSICAL MEANS OF DISPOSAL, WIELDING AS SHE DID THE FERAL ANIMALISTIC ASPECT OF THE QUO POWER...
"...AND I STILL HAD A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THAT MISERABLE CRETIN SCOOTER!
"I ANONYMOUSLY TIPPED OFF TEMPEST AS TO THE LOCAL WHEREABOUTS OF A SUPER-VILLIAN CALLED INEXTREMIS--
YOUR MOMENT OF DEATH IS AT HAND, HYPERKIND!
"--INTO A BATTLE Z-MAN HAD ALREADY JOINED--
"--AND SHE HEROICALLY CAME TO HIS AID!
"MY ZANIAC RESEARCH HELPED ME CREATE A DEVICE WHICH PROMPTED Z-MAN TO MOMENTARILY LOSE CONTROL...
AIEE!
"...HIS POWER TO DECAY MATTER ATOMICALLY WENT WILD, IT WAS INEXTREMIS AND TEMPEST WHO WERE CAUGHT IN THE BLAST!
"THEY SWIRLED INTO THE TINY MOLECULES FROM WHICH THEY WERE MADE AS I WATCHED SAFELY BEHIND A SECRET LEAD-LINED SHIELD!
STOPP! NOOO!
NO! TEMPEST! I'M SORRY...
HAHAHAHA!!
"SCOOTER WAS SO TRAUMATIZED BY THE INCIDENT, HE ABANDONED HIS CAREER. HIS THREAT ENDED, I LET MY ZONA DO ITS WORK WITH HIS PATHETIC LIFE!
"BUT THAT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING."

"DREAMDANCE WAS NEXT.
"SECURING HER WAS RELATIVELY SIMPLE, AS A PRELIMINARY FORMULA FOR THE ZONA PROVED EFFECTIVE AGAINST HER POWER OF MIND-GRIPPING ILLUSION!
AAAGH!
" I SET ABOUT TO... UNCOVER... THE MYSTERY OF THE PAXIS POWERS BURIED WITHIN HER, IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE... ONLY TO BE BRUTALLY BURNED FOR MY CURIOSITY BY THE STRANGE INSIGNIA WHICH WAS PART OF HER METALLIC FLESH!
YOU'LL NEVER DESTROY US, YOU MADMAN! NEVER!
" BUT IT WAS HER OR THE WORLD.
"THE WORLD WON.
"NEXT WAS LOGICKA, WHOM I ATTACKED WITH THE WEAPON SHE HERSELF WIELDED-- COLD LOGIC."
SURELY YOU CAN SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING! TEMPEST DEAD. CLARION DISAPPEARED, AND NOW DREAMDANCE...
AND DREAMDANCE? I CAN'T GIVE HER UP..
...PERHAPS SHE, LIKE THE OTHERS, HAS SEEN THAT THE PAXIS NO LONGER SERVE THEIR PURPOSE--
WELL, I HAD HOPED NOT TO HAVE TO SHOW YOU THIS... BUT IT'S OBVIOUS THAT DREAMDANCE--
--DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE. FROM HOW I FOUND THIS, IT'S CLEAR DREAMDANCE'S LIFE ENDED A NIGHTMARE. DON'T END YOURS THE SAME WAY...
HOW SO?
"LOGICKA'S TOUCH FREED THE QUO KEY FROM THE FLESH IN WHICH IT HAD BEEN IMBEDDED."
FWASH
I CAN'T LIVE THIS WAY...
NO... SHE'S GONE... AND ALL I FEEL IS COLD.
THE QUO MANIPULATION BEHIND THE SCENES--IT'S DESTROYING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY! IF YOU'RE TRULY SERIOUS ABOUT PROTECTING OUR IDEALS, YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE IT UP...

" I OFFERED THE ONLY LOGICAL SOLUTION... DISSOLUTION.
DREAMDANCE IS DEAD, ESCHBACHER-- AND I'M THROUGH!
THE DEVIL TAKE THE QUO!
THE QUO PHILOSOPHY ISN'T WHAT THE EARTH NEEDS!
YOU CAN'T QUIT! I WON'T LET YOU!
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE UP BECAUSE A COMRADE'S FALLEN! WE HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD!
SAVE IT FOR WHAT? ENDLESS PASSIVITY, AS THE QUO PREACH?
"ESCHBACHER'S ANGER WAS A JOY TO BEHOLD... HIS SOLDIER'S DREAM OF A NEW WORLD ORDER COMING APART AT THE SEAMS!
BRATTA BRATTA
I'M DONE, ESCHBACHER-- I'M RELEASING THE POWERS AND FREEING MYSELF!
"AND LOGICKA VANISHED AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT. I NEVER HEARD FROM HER AGAIN."
NO!
YOUR CHANCE TO REMAKE YOUR WORLD HAS FAILED, ESCHBACHER!
KLINK
THE KEYS! RETURN THEM TO ME-- IMMEDIATELY!
I'M TIRED OF FOLLOWING YOUR ORDERS, YOU CRUMMY ALIEN!
IF THESE PAXIS CAN'T DO THE JOB, I'LL FIND SOME WHO CAN!
AND HE DID!


"HE DID NOT! I MADE SURE OF THAT!
"WHEN MY SUPPLY OF ZONA WAS READY I QUICKLY DOSED ALL THE WORLD'S WATER SUPPLIES!
"THE DRUG'S A GENTLE SOPORIFIC HALLUCINOGEN, RENDERING HUMAN BEINGS SUSCEPTIBLE TO MY SUGGESTION, LESS CERTAIN OF THEIR OWN BELIEFS.
"SEEDED INTO THE VERY CLOUDS OF THE EARTH, MY ZONA SOON MADE EVERY LIFE-GIVING DROP OF WATER A THIEF AS WELL -- STEALING THE MEMORY OF THE PAXIS FROM THE WORLD FOREVER!
ZONA IS FOOLPROOF -- MY GREATEST CREATION! AND NOW YOU WILL TAKE MY SECRET TO YOUR GRAVES -- IN EVERY CELL OF YOUR HORRID HYPERKIND BODIES!
HMPH. YOU DIDN'T TRULY BELIEVE I'D TELL YOU ALL OF THIS IF YOU HAD ANY HOPE OF YOUR RELEASE, DID YOU?
NO ONE ESCAPES. I MADE CERTAIN OF THAT.
"IN ELIMINATING THE MEMORY OF THE PAXIS, I ALSO NEEDED TO REMOVE THE HISTORY OF WHAT THEY'D DONE FROM EVERY LIVING PERSON! SOON THE AIRWAVES WERE FILLED WITH MY SUBLIMINAL SUGGESTIONS, BEAMED INTO EVERY HOME --
-- REWRITING HISTORY, SO THAT THE HORUSIAN-ANUBISTI EARTH WARS NEVER OCCURRED, AND THE PAXIS NEVER WAS!

"PARAGON PICTURES SOON RELEASED MOVIES OF FICTIONAL PAXIS ADVENTURES AND PLAYED UP THE IDEA THAT THE PAXIS WERE A HOAX...
PAXIS EARTH III
"...EVENTUALLY, WHEN THE MOVIES' WORK HAD BEEN DONE, I EVEN REMOVED THESE FILMS FROM CIRCULATION.
"WITH MY FATHER'S BILLIONS, IT WASN'T HARD TO BRIBE BEAUROCRATS TO "LOSE" CERTAIN GOVERNMENT RECORDS OF THE PAXIS...
"...AND ONCE I TRADE-MARKED AND COPYRIGHTED THE VERY WORD, I COULD DESTROY ANYONE WHO TRIED TO WRITE ABOUT THE "HEROES"...
"...WHOSE LEGEND WAS RAPIDLY BEING FORGOTTEN!
"PROGRAMMING THE WORLD'S COMPUTERS TO REJECT THE WORD CAME LATER.
"AND AS MY PUBLISHING EMPIRE GREW, I ACQUIRED MORE NEWSPAPERS, SYSTEMATICALLY DESTROYING ALL PRINT AND MICROFILM RECORDS OF THE PAXIS.
"THE PARAGON HISTORICAL TRUST PERSUADES SCHOLARS TO FORGET--AND MERCILESSLY HOUNDS THOSE WHO REFUSE.
AND HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SUPER-HERO CULT WORSHIP?
THEY SHOULDN'T GO PUTTING IDEAS INTO THE MINDS OF CHILDREN--BUT WHAT THEY DO IN THEIR OWN HOMES IS THEIR BUSINESS!
"TODAY, IF THERE ARE ANY WHO BELIEVE IN THE PAXIS, THEY'RE WELL HIDDEN. ANY SUCH CULTISTS ARE CALLED A "SATANIC MENACE"--ON MY TV TALK SHOWS!"

FOR OVER A DECADE, I HAVE COASTED, USING MY POWERFUL MEDIA APPARATUS TO WIPE OUT THE SO-CALLED VIRTUES THAT PAXIS ONCE STOOD FOR--
--AND MAKING A MOUNTAIN OF MONEY AT THE SAME TIME.
PEOPLE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD--WHO BELIEVE THEY ARE VICTIMS OR IMPERFECT--
--WILL HAPPILY BUY ANYTHING TO FIX THEIR POOR SELF-IMAGES.
I LOVE THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD I'VE CREATED!
SOME WORLD--YOU'VE ENSLAVED EVERY HUMAN IN REACH OF A TELEVISION--
--TO A LIFE OF DISEMPOWERMENT, WAGE SLAVERY, AND UNQUENCHABLE DESIRE.
AND YET, WITH THE EMPIRE AND POWER YOU WIELD, YOU COULD AS EASILY END ALL THE WORLD'S WOES!
ALAS, YBS... IF MY ENERGY WEREN'T REQUIRED TO DESTROY THE MEMORY OF THE PAXIS, I COULD DO SO MUCH!
BUT SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE.
YOU ALL, FOR EXAMPLE, YOUR LIVES MUST BE SACRIFICED FOR THE GREATER SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR POWERS!
UNLESS YOU'D PREFER TO TELL ME OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL--HOW DID YOU GET THESE POWERS OF YOURS?
I WAS GIVEN THEM, ACTUALLY... BY ESCHBACHER! AND THAT THERMAKK GUY, HE TRIED TO KILL US...
SO YOU CAN CHANGE BACK AND FORTH FROM THIS FORM TO YOUR REGULAR ONE...
...LIKE IN THE COMIC BOOKS?
OOH-- IT'S NEAT! THE KEY--
--IS THAT WE CAN'T.

ONCE THE TRANSFIGURATION PROCESS IS COMPLETE, THERE'S NO GOING BACK.
I SEE. AND WHERE IS THE COUNTERPART TO CLARION?

TH-THERE WERE ONLY FOUR OF US...

YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?!
THAT'S YOUR DREAM, TO JOIN US AS HYPER-KIND?
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO BELIEVE, ISN'T IT?

YES, PARAGON JOHN! THAT'S IT! WE'RE NOT THE PAXIS...
YOU COULD... YOU COULD...? I WOULD MAKE A GOOD PAXIS...
IF YOU COULD MAKE THIS SO, YOU'D BE RESPONSIBLE FOR USHERING IN A NEW GOLDEN AGE TO THIS WORLD!
...WE WOULDN'T EVEN BE ACTING AS A TEAM, IF NOT FOR YOUR CHALLENGE! HAVE THE FIFTH POWER!
WH-WHAT? CAN THIS BE TRUE?
...BUT IF THIS IS A TRICK YOU'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR FRIENDS DYING MORE SLOWLY AND HORRIBLY THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE!
WITHOUT EVEN REMEMBERING WHY!
AHEM. NOW, TO ASSURE YOUR COOPERATION, I'LL LEAVE THE ZONA FLOW ON A TIMER...
...RETURN ME HERE--TRANSFIGURED--WITHIN THE HOUR, AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL LIVE TO SEE THE GLORIOUS NEW DAWN WE'LL BRING!
I'LL PREPARE THE WAY...
NO! LOGIX YOU CAN'T! TRAITOR!
...AT THOUGHTSPEED! IT'S THE ONLY LOGICAL SOLUTION FOR ALL OF US, ARMATA. PITY I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE THAT!
SPEEDY TRAITOR!
JUST GOES TO PROVE THAT THOUGHTS DON'T MAKE THE MAN!
CHILL, ARMATA. MAYBE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY...
TH-THANK YOU...
...THOUGH YOUR FRIENDS REVILE YOU...THE WORLD WILL THANK YOU...

THE ABANDONED HELIOPOLIS CINEMA--HIDING PLACE OF POWERS ONCE THOUGHT LONG-LOST...
THIS IS WHERE ESCHBACHER HID THE POWER SARCOPHAGI ? UNDER MY NOSE ALL THIS TIME ?
OF COURSE, THIS WILL HAVE TO GO, IN FAVOR OF A MUCH MORE REGAL SETTING-- REMINISCENT OF THE OLD GRAND HALL.
ALTHOUGH THE TECHNOLOGY IS INCREDIBLE! MORE AMAZING THAN I COULD'VE IMAGINED!
IT WAS FAR SUPERIOR, BEFORE THE QUO COMPUTER WAS WRECKED IN OUR FIGHT WITH THERMAKK!
THE GREATEST MINDS ACROSS THE WORLD SHALL SEE TO ITS REPAIR!
ONCE WE'VE UNITED THE WORLD'S GOVERNMENTS UNDER ONE RULE...
OH...IS-- IS THIS IT ?
YOUR DREAM AWAITS...
...THE POWER OF CLARION... A PARAGON REMADE!
YES...YOUR WISDOM IN THIS WON'T BE FORGOTTEN!
ONCE WE'VE TOPPLED THE PETTY DICTATORSHIPS AND OLIGARCHIES OF THE WORLD, THEN I CAN TRULY SHOW MY APPRECIATION...
ONCE WE'VE REMADE THE WORLD...
REMADE... IN YOUR IMAGE ?
IN THE PERFECT IMAGE-- THOUGH SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE!
YOU'LL SEE. THEY'LL ALL SEE!
FATHER WOULD HAVE BEEN SO PROUD...
YOU SURE THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT ?
OH, YES...
...please...

AS JOHN'S PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED, THE MINUTES TICK OMINOUSLY BY...
...AND AT MINUTE FIFTY-SEVEN, TEN HYPERKIND WAIT IMPATIENTLY...THEIR VERY LIVES JUST MINUTES FROM ERASURE AND EXTINCTION!
...STOP SAYIN' THAT ARMATA! LOGIX'S GOTTA HAVE SOME KIND OF PLAN! HE WOULDN'T DO THIS TO US!
KENNY'S DONE WORSE TO ME BEFORE, GEORGE, REMEMBER?
FIRST HE STOLE MY HEART AND TRASHED IT-- NOW HE'S DOING IT TO MY LIFE!
DON'T BLAME HIM, LISA! IF YOU HAVE TO BLAME SOMEONE BEFORE WE GO--BLAME ME!
OKAY...
"...NOT LIKE THERE ISN'T ENOUGH BLAME TO GO AROUND. WE TOOK THESE POWERS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
TIK TIK TIK TIK
"--AND IT'S TOO LATE.
TIK TIK TIK
" NOW WE ALL KNOW JUST HOW BIG A THREAT WE WERE UP AGAINST... KNOW HOW MUCH HE'S GOTTA BE STOPPED--
" ALL OUR STUPID SQUABBLING HAS KEPT US FROM MAKING THE DIFFERENCE THAT WE SWORE WE WOULD!"
AND NOW WE'RE GONNA DIE WITH THE ANSWER TO THE UGLIEST SECRET IN THE WORLD...
...AND NOBODY'LL EVEN KNOW.
!
THAT'S IT. SAY GOODNIGHT, GRACIE...
...G' NIGHT, GRACIE...
CHAK

BUDDY!
NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!
ZZZZZZZT
ZONA FLOODING DEACTIVATED
KAK-LICK
I... I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T LET US DOWN!
EMERGENCY V GEAR DISENGAGED
HE'S LET THE WORLD DOWN, BLISS! PARAGON JOHN, WITH GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS?!
CHOOM
CHOOM
HE'S DOOMED US ALL!
AND BESIDES, THEY'RE MY SARCOPHAGI.
I'VE SAVED US ALL! ESCHBACHER SAID TO USE THE QUO POWERS FOR EARTH...
...HOW WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO THAT--IF YOU WERE DEAD?!
MY WAY WAS THE ONLY SENSIBLE SOLUTION, ARMATA.

SENSIBLE? COULDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT THAT GUY WAS SAYING?
HITLER'S FINAL SOLUTION MADE SENSE TO SOME, ONCE... DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY LESS HORRIFYING, OR LESS EVIL!
HEAR HIM OUT! MY GUESS IS LOGIX'S THOUGHT A WAY OUTTA THIS MESS!
PARAGON JOHN GAVE US ALL THE TOOLS WE NEEDED...
...IT WAS EASY TO SWIPE THE SMALL ZONA VIAL AND SYRINGE--
--AT THOUGHTSPEED!
"HE WAS TOO WRAPPED UP IN HIS OWN VEILED THREATS AND FANTASIES TO EVEN FEEL THE INJECTION!"
YOU MEAN--?
BREEPBREEP
I MEAN I'VE SPENT THE LAST HALF HOUR RE-PROGRAMMING HIM AS BEST I COULD! THAT'S WHAT'S KEPT ME--
SEALING THE COMPLEX
--THOUGH I COULDN'T ERASE US COMPLETELY FROM HIS MEMORY, AT LEAST HE WON'T RECALL US ANSWERING HIS CHALLENGE! NOW GO!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'VE GOT ONE LAST BIT OF BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF...
...ERASING ANY RECORDINGS OF OUR LITTLE GROUP ENCOUNTER!
ERASING SURVEILLANCE FILES
ERASING AUDIO AND VIDEO LOGS
ERASING...

LATER.
BOY ARE THOSE TROOPERS CONFUSED! ONE MINUTE THEY'VE GOT FOUR SUPER-CAPTIVES...
...AND THE NEXT MINUTE, THE BOSS-MAN'S TELLING THEM WE WERE NEVER THERE!
BUT ALL THOSE SOLDIERS KNOW WE WERE CAPTURED!
DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'D ARGUE WITH PARAGON JOHN?
YEAH -- THE FIRST ONE TO OPEN HIS MOUTH'S A DEAD DUCK. WE GAVE THAT EMPEROR A SET OF NEW CLOTHES HE'LL BE WEARING FOR A LONG TIME!
GOOD GOIN' BUDDY!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT. I HOPE HE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT WE DID TO HIM -- BECAUSE OTHERWISE...
"...WE MAY'VE GIVEN PARAGON JOHN A WHOLE NEW REASON TO HATE A NEW GENERATION OF HYPERKIND..."
EXCELLENT. SO THE INTER-LOPER IN NEW YORK -- TRIP MUNROE -- HAS AGREED TO DO L.A. FRIDAY NIGHT, IN RETURN FOR BAIL MONEY &*#
*SEE HOKUM & HEX #5 FOR DETAILS. --MARC
I HAVE SUCH PLANS FOR HIM...
...WE'LL SHOW ALL AMERICA -- THERE'S NO PLACE FOR SUPER POWERS IN A DECENT SOCIETY!
"EVERYTHING'S FINE..."
...YOU SEE, ARMATA? NO NEED TO COME DOWN ON LOGIX -- EVERYTHING AT OUR HQ IS SAFE AND SOUND!
STILL, LOGIX, THAT WAS A HECK OF A CHANCE YOU TOOK, LETTING JOHN ACTUALLY STEP INTO THE SARCOPHAGUS...
NOT REALLY. AS SOON AS WE ENTERED THE CHAMBER, I KNEW THE POWER WOULD NEVER BE HIS... I COULDN'T TRANSFORM PARAGON JOHN -- EVEN IF I WANTED TO!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOU--
-- THE FIFTH BALL! IT'S DARK!
WHILE WE WERE HELD PRISONER...
...SOMEONE'S STOLEN THE FINAL POWER!
AND IF THAT DOESN'T HAVE YOU WORRIED ENOUGH, CHECK OUT HOKUM & HEX #5, IN WHICH TRIP MUNROE MEETS... THE HYPER-KIND -- THEN BE BACK HERE AS TRIP AND THE NEO-PAXIS CONFRONT THE GREATEST ENEMIES OF THE ORIGINAL PAXIS! ENTER:
THE VEXUS!

MARC McLAURIN
Editor

SPENCER LAMM
Assistant Editor

MALCOLM SMITH
Consulting Editor

HYPERKIND

some great things

Some really great things came out of August's RAZORLINE conference. With all of the writers and most of the artists in the same room for an extended amount of time with the man behind the Barkerverse, the ideas were flying fast and furiously. And some interesting character aspects came out, about both the characters in the books and the characters in the room.

Some of the writers who I know are very flamboyant idea machines on the phone and on paper seemed a little shy in the organized setting. And some of the creators who were reserved in our one-on-one dealings came out of their shells with more ideas in a split second than they'd told me about in the past month!

All of this served to assure me of one thing I had long ago begun to suspect; some of the RAZORLINE's strongest assets are *synchronicity* and *simpatico*. Synchronicity because these guys are thinking along amazingly similar lines, which are oceans apart from the mainstream of thought, and more fascinatingly entertaining than anything I've ever seen out there. Simpatico because, even as they finish each other's thoughts, these creators are very careful not to tread on those thoughts, making the creative experience that much more pleasant.

And, perhaps more importantly, they're having a real ball doing it.

your invitation's in the mail

For all of you interested in sharing in the fun, consider asking your local comic retailer if he's interested in having a RAZORLINE party, attended by one of the amazing creators in the RAZORLINE imprint. He can get more info by writing to us at the address above.

That's all. I'm ghost.

Marcus McLaurin

Dear Hyperions,

I don't think I could give a better word for *Hyperkind*'s first issue than totally AWESOME! I have been a fan of Clive Barker since his first *Hellraiser* movie. I have always been intrigued and fascinated by Clive's universe and now that I could be part of his universe through Razorline seems too good to be true.

Anyway, *Hyperkind* is one group I know I would definitely enjoy. But I do have a few questions.

1) Is Lisa's body some kind of liquid metal that she could form into any barrel-shaped gun that discharges energy explosives?

2) What happened to Dyan? Where did she go to? By the way, her picture on page 8 looks anatomically impossible (the way her arms are positioned, I mean).

3) I could only guess Kenny's the "Vision"-like person with the cape. I am very curious about what his powers are like.

4) George's character seems the best and fiercest fighter of them all. But do his blades change back into regular hands? What does he do when he gets an itch?

5) If Lisa has the ankh as her symbol, what about the others? Where are their symbols located? Also, there are only four of them, and I thought there were supposed to be five. I could only speculate that Lisa got Eschbacher, Kenny got Logicka, George got Tempest, so Dyan probably gets Dreamdance. Who will Clarion be then?

Well, I have been through the first issue of *Hyperkind* and I definitely would like to see more. All I want to say is, another GREAT WORK, GUYS. Here's another milestone in the Marvel empire.

I really hope the crossovers you're planning will come much later. For now, I am only interested in *Hyperkind* and *Saint Sinner*. I didn't care much for the *Ectokid* prologue at the end of the book. I sure hope you won't do this on the other books.

RAZORLINE REIGNS!
Mel Atendido
57 Lorraine St.
Parkway Village, Quezon City
Philippines 1106

By now you've seen the five-pagers in all of the Razorline first issues, Mel, designed to give our readers a taste of the full scope of the Barkerverse! We really want these titles to hold together as *one* universe, with many hyperkind (the Neo-Paxis, or capital H Hyperkind, among them). In that vein, we've already had references back and forth between *Hyperkind* and *Hokum & Hex*—and the full-fledged crossover is upon us! That's right—this month in *Hokum & Hex* #5 we'll see how *H & H* writer Frank Lovece handles the Hyperkind, and next month Trip Munroe will be on hand in these pages to help our heroes battle the *Vexus*, a team so villainous it took a magical lava flow to stop their vicious mission to destroy the old Paxis team!

As to your questions, we've already seen many of them answered. Once in the sarcophagi, each of our characters was utterly *remade*, their bodies taken apart on every level and recreated with added power. In the remaking, the *imagination* of the human involved created the "look" of the character. Armata's body is, like Eschbacher's before her, partially made of living metal—and capable of transforming into many weapons. Amoldc, on the other hand—er, *blade*—is stuck with his deadly appendages. His flesh is tough enough to handle an urge to scratch...gently...but there are all sorts of nice activities he can no longer participate in.

By now, the symbols for each of the Hyperkind have become apparent—but Clarion's power, as you've seen this issue, has been used by forces unknown. Just stay tuned—we promise a fifth Neo-Paxis in the near future!

Dear Hyperkind,

I bought the first issue of *Hyperkind* at Waldenbooks. I loved it. Has Fred Burke written other comics? I think Lisa is the best. She could kill Thermakk on her own.

Is the Dutchman telling the story? Is the Dutchman also Eschbacher? He claimed he was. Do the Paxis Warriors lead a hyperkind life? Is Clive Barker cool?

That's all for now...

Your comic book fan,
Sean Crinnigan
8720 Spring Valley Lane
Indianapolis, Indiana 46231

Once Lisa is fully in control of the awesome power that Armata wields, she may indeed go head to head with Thermakk, Sean—but I think the Quo warlord might teach her a thing or two!

The Dutchman was Thermakk in disguise—and he was telling the story of the original Paxis in an attempt to revive Eschbacher's lost memories. Somewhere between my brain and the finished page, that beautiful spread of the original Paxis was *colored* as if it were *Eschbacher* reciting the tale. Oops.

The Paxis of America (from around 1917 to 1963) led a hyperkinda life indeed! Chosen by the Quo, they virtually *evolved* into the forms of Clarion, Dreamdance, Tempest, Logicka, and Eschbacher. Sure, they could remove their keys anytime they wanted to—they just didn't want to!

Our hyperkids are different. George, Kenny, Lisa, and Dyan were *not* chosen for their spiritual readiness (they're more like John Doore in that regard, strangely enough). They're not prepared to make the leap into full-time hyperlife. They're not even ready to be *Paxis*, which is why we've dubbed them The Hyperkind!

NEXT:

Trip Munroe is in L.A. at the behest of **Paragon John**, just in time to unleash the greatest enemies of the original Paxis! You definitely don't want to miss our amazing sideways issue, as Trip and the Hyperkind turn L.A. on its ear!

ENTER...THE VEXUS!

CUTTING EDGE ALERT!
Two weeks in HOKUM & HEX #5:

If you couldn't tell by this issue's final page, **Trip Munroe** is coming to L.A., under the direction of Paragon John! And the L.A. riots may pale in comparison to Trip's first clash with the **Hyperkind!**

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE: *'Tis the season to cross-over!*

ECTOKID #5:

Explore the unknowable dangers of the world beyond in **Part One** of the two-part **Sir Sigmoid's Arcadia**, guest-starring **Saint Sinner!** When the recently departed Philip Fetter finds his spirit in a soul-stealing circus, it's Ectokid to the rescue! But, oops— Sigmoid's got Dex's soul to! What's a deadboy to do?!

SAINT SINNER #5:

In **Part Two** of **Sir Sigmoid's Arcadia**, we find out! Meanwhile, **Saint Sinner**'s body, kept alive by the angel and demon within, wanders the streets of New York as the demon hatches a plan to free himself from Fetter's body, even if...heck, especially if it kills Philip!